with this distributor in the last three months, the supply of LPG refills currently is normal. A close watch is being kept on the working of this distributorship by IOC.

Pricing Policy for Natural Gas supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board

2548. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken about the pricing policy to be adopted for charging price for natural gas being supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board;

(b) whether it is a fact that this matter has been pending with the Central Government for a very long period; and whether Maharashtra Government have made several representations for an early decision; and

(c) whether there is any major basic difference between Maharashtra Government and Government of India over this policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) The question of fixing the price of natural gas is under the consideration of Government.

Petromax complex at Salimpur

2549. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1985 Government had decided to establish a Petromax complex at Salimpur District Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, how many applications for the joint venture have so far been received by Government;

(c) whether any party has been selected and awarded the contracts; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government have abandoned the project; if so, what are the reasons thereof stating the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of U.P. Limited (PICUP), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, has been issued a letter of intent on 3-3-1986 for the setting up of a petrochemical complex at Saleempur, District Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. The Project is proposed to be set up in assisted sector. It is for the PICUP to select a partner and implement the project after obtaining usual clearances such as, clearance for import of technology and capital goods, etc.

Allotment of cooking gas agencies to freedom fighters in Uttar Pradesh

2550. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cooking gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of freedom fighters who have been allotted these agencies; and

(c) the number of freedom fighters whose applications have been rejected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) Out of a total number of 300 LPG distributorships operating in Uttar Pradesh, 9 have been allotted under Freedom Fighters category.

(c) Against the reservation for 'Freedom Fighters' in the grant of petroleum products dealerships, selection is made only from amongst Freedom Fighters; the applications of those who are not empanelled are deemed to have been rejected. In this manner, 117 applications were rejected.

Export of petroleum products

2551. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any petroleum products are exported from India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount of foreign exchange earned from these exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the Petroleum products exported during 1984-85 and 1985-86 are given below :

Qty. : '000' Tonnes
Value : Rs./Crores.

Products	1984-85		1985-86*	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1. Naphtha	612	167	1796	449
2. H.S.D./L.D.O	71	24	66	23
3. F.O./L.S.H.S	170	34	14	4
Others	80	30	83	32
Total	933	255	1959	508

*Provisional

Off-shore drilling for oil in sea beds other than Bombay High

2552. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether apart from Bombay-High the possibilities of off-shore drilling for oil have been explored in other sea-beds of India also;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the oil potential available therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exploratory drilling is continuing in off-shore parts of Kutch-Saurashtra, Kerala-Konkan, Andaman, Bengal, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery & Mahanadi NEC basins.

As on 1-1-1986, the geological reserves of oil in the above off-shor basins were estimated at about 53 million tonnes.

Services of foreign oil companies

2553. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services of any foreign oil companies are being utilised in oil exploration work in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) No foreign oil companies are at present engaged in exploration work in India. However, Services of foreign service companies are